

R E M A R K S

By this Amendment the abstract of the disclosure and claim 15 have been corrected, as required.

The examiner has rejection claims 2-5, 7, 9-11, 14 and 15 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hauge et al., he has rejected claim 6 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hauge et al. in view of Loewy et al. and Dickey et al., he has rejected claim 8 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hauge et al. in view of Loewy et al., and he has rejected claims 12 and 13 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hauge et al. in view of Loewy et al. and Watanabe et al. In his Response to Arguments the examiner states that "(t)he change of sequence of neutralization and filtration would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art absent evidence to the contrary...."

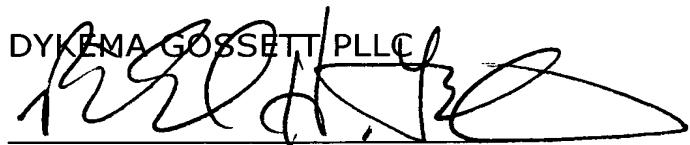
With respect to the foregoing, the applicant herewith submits a Declaration under 37 C.F.R. 1.132¹ which provides appropriate data that indeed proves that the sequence of neutralization and filtration (separation) are indeed critical.

¹ Unsigned version. A signed version will be submitted upon receipt.

This data supports the arguments presented in the Amendment of January 16, 2009 in support of patentability over Hauge et al. and Loewy et al. As such, the presented claims should be allowed.

Respectfully submitted,

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